• The FANZINE for BATMAN FANS •

BATMANIA

1ST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

NO. 5 JULY 1965

EXTRA-ADDED PAGES

ROBIN'S SOLO ADVENTURES IN STAR SPANGLED COMICS

Our objective---to join together those who enjoy reading and collecting the stories of Batman and Robin.

No. 5
July 1965

BATMANIA

1ST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Editor and Publisher
BILJO WHITE

Associate Editor
TOM FAGAN

As the 2nd year begins...for those who came in late...

We, the Batmanians, are dedicated to the purpose of elevating our heroes, Batman and Robin, to the peak of popularity in every media of public exposure. FOR THE CAUSE OF BATMAN, WE ACCEPT NOTHING AS IMPOSSIBLE.

As a reader of Batmania you must be interested in Batman in some way. Therefore, we, the members of the nation's largest Batman fan club, consider all interested Batman fans as 1st class Batmanians. Our organization asks no dues. As Batmanians, we crusade, not for monetary gain, but for the enjoyment of seeing our ideas materialize.

Batmania #2 carried Certificate of Membership sheets for all members up until that date. Many have been sent out since, but not all members have one. If you are one of these, you may obtain the official certificate by sending me a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request. We do ask you to accept membership to the Batmanians--even though your fan-activities go no further than continuing to read the adventures of Batman and Robin.

Presently, I, the old Capt., am acting as your Chief-Batmanian and in this capacity I have been receiving some nominations for the position of Chief-Batmanian. Tom Fagan(now an associate editor) of Rutland, Vermont, and Larry Raybourne of Lakewood, Ohio, are the first two candidates for this national post. If you have someone you'd like to nominate for Chief-Batmanian, then please submit their names along with your order for the next issue of BM. This would help out on the already overloaded condition of my p.o. box.

Instead of electing regional officers we've decided to also receive nominations at the state level for rank of Lieutenant. One for each state. Make your nomination for Lieut for only your own state. An official voting ballot will be printed in our next issue.

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ROBIN'S PRECARIOUS PERCH

BY TOM FAGAN

"Look, It's Robin The Boy Wonder!"

How many times has this startled cry rung out from a terrified criminal in comicdom's gangland as a familiar figure, garbed in emerald, scarlet and saffron, flashed down from darkened rooftops above by means of a twirling, silken-strand?

And countless times, the exclamation was one of hope! The innocent had no reason for fear. An appearance by Robin was a promise of justice to be done, swiftly and surely.

Thus it has ever been since those now yellowed but still golden pages of Detective Comics No. 38 first heralded the birth of the Boy Wonder.

Dick Grayson---just a boy. But what a boy. A fighting youth, who with devil-may-care-daring and pungent punning, took his rightful place alongside a cowl-masked champion of good to combat crime at its roots and heights.

Dick Grayson/Robin---one and the same. Known to all, save the sketched and inked personages of the colored pages, as "the kid who fights crime with Batman."

And with exciting precision, Robin battled through the pages of Detective Comics and Batman Comics right into the folds of World's Best Comics and on into the coveted ranks of heroes who would take over and remain in World's Finest Comics.

Capturing the hearts of old and young readers of adventure tales everywhere---Robin did this with ease and exactness. So much so, he captured....

A place in Star Spangled Comics!

A place that was to be a precarious perch for Robin.

The year was 1947; the month February. Up to now Robin had proved himself as the crime-crushing ally of Batman. But could he stand alone? Could he break away from the father image? Would he always remain the sub-altern of the Daring Duo?

The sad answers were, No! This appeared more and more obvious as Star Spangled Comics, as readers knew it then, ran its unalterable course into oblivion.

It was a battle mighty. One for which Robin must be given credit.

Yet the Boy Wonder really never had a chance. He was never given the full opportunity to "go it alone." In this case, Robin was truely a rebel without a cause.

Editorial policy lay behind this. A policy which deemed it necessary that Batman be constantly within Robin's "solo" strip, whether the appearance be by mention of name, a brief passing in a thought sequence, or even worse occupying major roles and portions of several stories.

Scant plotting and poor artwork, too, took its toll.

The beginning foretold the end.

Issue 65 of Star Spangled hit the stands dated February, 1947. Whitney Ellsworth was listed as editor, and National Comics Publications, Inc., the publisher. They would remain the rulers of Robin's Fate until Star Spangled ceased publication with its Issue 130, dated July of 1952.

A smiling, confident Robin, alert and well-drawn appeared on that 1947 cover. Eye-catching yellow provided the background and bold lettering proclaimed:

"NOW! A Thrilling New Series of Smash Adventures Starring Batman's Famed Partner-In-Peril (here was drawn a blue bat-symbol and over it, lettered in red ROBIN-The Boy Wonder-) In Solo Action."

Appearing behind the colorful front figure of Robin was the boy wonder's shadow. But more omnious of things to come was also the shadow of Batman, though the elder crime-fighter did not appear on the cover other than in silhouette.

Older readers of the time must have wondered with a twinge of nostalgia, how the colbalted-blue and golden garbed Guardian and his Newsboy Legion felt about the brazen appearance of Robin at this moment in comic-book history.

For the Guardian and his youthful companions had held top spot in Star Spangled since Issue No. 7 and had dominated the cover picture through all succeeding issues.

But now without warning the Guardian and friends were gone. In a sense it was poetic justice, for these upstarts had ousted the Star Spangled Kid and Stripsey (cover-featured on Issues 1 through 6) to a back place in the magazine years past.

And included in the Star Spangled lineup when Robin stepped in to take over were Liberty Belle, The All-American Girl and Robotman. Both must have sensed what was coming.

Liberty Belle rung out forever with Star Spangled Issue 38. Robotman, a more durable type, held on in Star Spangled until Issue 82, then with well-oiled thinking clanked over to the safer pages of Detective Comics to remain there in metalic bliss from Issue 138 to 202 with the exception of an absence in Detective No. 155.

As for the Kid and Stripsey they would remain in the Star Spangled world until Issue 86. The Kid's sister, Merry would appear as a costumed combatant of crime (after an introduction in Issue 81) within three brief issues, namely 87, 88 and 90.

Such was the picture with Robin's venture into Star Spangled Comics. Page 1 of the Boy Wonder's "solo" story was signed with Bob Kane's signature.

Be that if it may, but if it was, the artwork within the tale, entitled THE TEEN-AGE TERRORS! did not sadly enough measure up in the slightest to the magnificient Kane cartooning of the early days back in Detective.

Boasted the story's forward:

"Now for the first time, we tell the exciting story of the Boy Wonder's single-handed exploits! First on the thrilling list is the dangerous adventure of--'THE TEEN AGE TERRORS!'"

It wasn't so "thrilling" at all. In fact, to be blunt, it was boringly mundane. Disguised as Dynamite Denny, a youthful tough, Robin enters a Boys' Reformatory, quickly ascertains adults are using delinquents to carry out crimes, and then with a bip, bam, pow and sock or two, quells the culprits and lectures to the erring boys, thusly:

"A crook may get away 50 times, but he loses all if he's caught once....No one's going to know that you attended these classes in crime!

You'll all get a new chance! Don't waste it!"

Naturally, the hardened juvenile delinquents immediately respond with.."Ya Bet we won't Robin-Sir! C'Mon, youse mugs--T'ree cheers fer Robin!"

And to end this touching epic, Alfred the ever-faithful butler, comments after hearing the story, "My word! How thrilling you must tell me MORE of your single-handed exploits, Mawster Robin--SIR!"

(Alfred must have cheated and read the story's forward.)

In fairness, however, the story did attempt to put Robin into situations with youthful characters involved. So did Issue 66 and 67; the first with the life of a boy actor threatened, and the second with young geniuses, one skilled in science and the other in music.

Issue 67, though nothing earth-shaking story wise, had a valuable lesson to teach. It showed arts, science and athletics all have their place in life as each of the three boys involved use their respective skills to effect an escape from "The Castle of Doom."

The story's valuable telling-point was completely shattered, however, at the very end when the reader realizes Robin and his two friends were never in danger at all. The death traps were nothing more than harmless tests concocted by Bruce Wayne.

(Once again the ever-present theme is introduced that a young person is incapable of really acting on his own without the ever-watchful guidance of the old.)

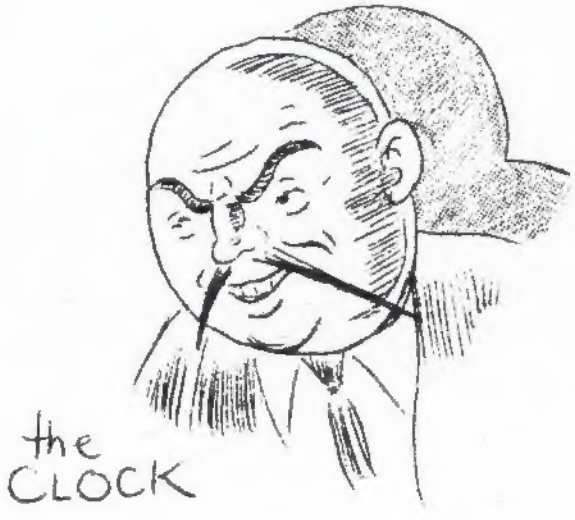
To be noted also, Issue 66 began a run of covers featuring Robin and not Batman, even in silhouette only. This happy state-of-affairs for the Boy Wonder, was to continue (cover-wise at least) through Issue 87.

Issue 88 was a far different story. Batman appears on the cover with Robin and remains featured there until Issue 94. Issue 95 featured Robin, alone again.

Perhaps it was a sugar-tit for young Grayson. For he would never appear on a cover of Star Spangled again. Tomahawk, who first appeared in Star Spangled in Issue 69, took over the cover predominance and lead story place until No. 122.

With Issue 122, a newcomer materialized from nowhere and as Robin had done some five years ago, monopolized cover and lead story positions.

This was, The Ghost Breaker, a strip which illustrated the decline costumed heroes had fallen into by this time, with the supernatural-scientific fictionalized tales assuming popularity.



But all that is history and to understand history, one must take into account what goes before. Robin's Star Spangled history includes many interesting facets.

Batman is mentioned by name only in Issue 68 which may be truthfully pointed out as Robin's first solo adventure. Plotwise the story, FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE MAST, leaves much to be desired. Robin stows-away on the ship of Captain Wolf, rescues shanghaied deep-sea divers and ends a plot to raise a sunken cargo of Nazi gold.

War, past and pending is not forgotten in Robin Star Spangled sallys. The Nazi will be mentioned again. The atomic bomb will play an important part in two tales.

No. 59 features the Robin adventure, THE STOLEN ATOM BOMB! Robin causes a stolen missle of frightful destruction to be dropped harmlessly in mid-ocean.

More interesting from comic-book ethics is the fact that Robin fights a woman. This is "Little Eva, The World's Strongest Woman," who is choking him to death with her huge, powerful, ham-like hands.

How does Robin remain true to the comic code of chivalry? He eases his conscience, before striking back, with the declaration: "Batman told me never to hit a lady--but he didn't say not to us UDO! Besides, it's to save my life..."

And so in that June, 1947-dated tale, the bomb dropped, created Robin's Island by an underseas upheaval of ocean bottom, and Little Eva's inglorious, crime career came to an end.

The bomb was not to be mentioned again until Issue 116, May, 1951. Tomahawk, carrying the 13-starred flag of the colonies in one hand and a long-rifle in the other, was leading Revolutionary forces against bayonetting British and bow and arrow-ready Indians, on the colorful cover of that time. Yet one of the best, most exciting and well-drawn Robin adventures of Star-Spangled annals, was to be found inside--the last story of the book.

Bob Kane's signature was signed on Page 1 of this tale called THE MAN NO ONE COULD KILL. It was top-notch Robin action. With Batman mentioned by name only, Robin begins the case with research to discover, a criminal career has been in the making since the 15th Century. He traces the path of the man, called Dante Leonardo, across time and continents, until the modern day appearance in the United States.

Leonardo is immortal having drunk the Elixir of Life. Robin, time and time again, manages to thwart Leonardo schemes, and at one point the Boy Wonder passes up the opportunity for immortality for himself, by destroying the magical elixir.

Completely frustrated Leonardo leaves the United States sending back to Robin, through Commissioner Gordon, a note reading; "..And so I leave America to you, I will seek out other places...but meanwhile I need a rest. When you read this I shall be far away, on a tiny speck in the Pacific. It's called Bikini Atoll. Dante Leonardo.."

The last panel of the story showed an island in the Pacific, a huge, mushroom-shaped cloud rising above its shattered shoals. The bottom

caption read: "..And that was the last anyone ever saw or heard of Dante Leonardo!" Fittingly, enough, a tiny insert caption within the picture itself, said simply...THE END.

Leonardo was a villain well suited for the Golden Age of Comics. It was a pity he was utilized only once. Those who guide the destiny of the New Look Robin and Batman of today, might do well to consider bringing back this age-old menace, who could easily take his place alongside the rather non-descript new creations of villainy of the '60's---and in fact outdo them in providing adversary action.

Nazies were featured only one other time in Star Spangled Robin adventures, other than the previously mentioned sunken-gold saga. Robin becomes ROBIN CRUSOE in a similarly titled tale in the Sept., 1947, #72. The Boy Wonder finds himself marooned on a desert island. Yet the island is really not so deserted at all. For it has been utilized as a hidden arsenal base by a Nazi submarine crew, who have not forgotten the war and plan to restore their party to power.

Within the space of 22 panels, Robin using makeshift weapons destroys the oil base and defeats the sub-crew members. He knocks their Germanic captain senseless by using a wooden swastika as a boomerang.

With the exception of the afore-mentioned Dante Leonardo, the villains Robin faced in Star Spangled Comics were pretty much run-of-the-mill types, small-time gang bosses, disgruntled delinquents and the like. They lacked the color and imagination sparked by such notable opponents as Catwoman, Joker, Two-Face, Penguin and Scarecrow, that together with Batman the Boy Wonder often faced.

There were two exceptions in the Star-Spangled series, however. The first was The Clock, a newcomer, and the other Crazy-Quilt, already familiar to the readers of Boy Commando Comics. When the Clock first started his bouts with Robin, he appeared as a rather ordinary-looking prosperously-plump, business-suited, bespectacled, mustached individual. His orange-colored fedora hid a head of a supposedly, full, fine brown mop of hair. This was issue, No. 70, July, 1947 and the adventure was entitled "CLOCKS OF DOOM!"

Subsequently, The Clock appeared in Issues 74, 79 and a final time in No. 97, dated Oct., 1949. Issue 79 boasted a beautiful surrealistic cover, with Robin fighting for his life against a grandoise grandfather clock in the midst of a Dali-like landscape.

Artwork for 79 and 97 was signed Bob Kane (In fact all Robin stories in Star Spangled bore Kane's signature trade-mark) but these two particular issues bear evidence that artwork was actually done by the master stylist, himself.

In physical appearance after Issue 70, The Clock was drawn so that he looked like his namsake---a clock. He was bald-headed; the mustache more pointed to resemble hands on the face of a clock. Stories featuringThe Clock were not particularly well done. The best (and even that wasn't too good) was No. 74's THE CLOCK STRIKES!" At the conclusion of this minor epic, Robin uses a giant clock to capture The Clock.

That renegade of the rainbow, Crazy-Quilt appeared only once in Star Spangled to confront the Boy Wonder. In this adventure taking up Robin's time in Issue 123, Dec., 1951, the reader learns how Crazy-Quilt came to be. Files in the BatCave provide this answer. Quilt was a famed artist turned criminal. Shot by a rival gang chief, Quilt did not die but his eyesight was damaged and he searched the world for the one physician who might help him.

An operation was performed but it resulted in a "stunning new ailment"---Crazy-Quilt could see nothing but bright, vivid hues, hence the reason for his crimes in technicolor.

In meeting up with Robin, Crazy-Quilt vows, "I Shall Steal All The

Color In Gotham City!" With this begins a series of seemingly-senseless crimes. Yet the Boy Wonder soon discovers there is a careful scheme fronting Quilt's apparent madness. Objects that have been apparently bleached of color and are now worthless, have simply been coated white and have been left unguarded so that the master criminal can easily return to steal them.

"CRAZY-QUILT COMES BACK!" is one of the better Robin stories and Batman, fortunately "is away," so the Boy Wonder can work on the case alone. If you ever wondered about the age of a comic book villain, this issue of Star Spangled gave the answer. Crazy-Quilt was listed in the Batcave records as age, 43. Of course the reader had no way of knowing how old the particular file card was.

Along these lines, how old is Robin? Issue 122, November of 1951, hold the answer. In the opening forward of the story called "THE BAD BOY OF GOTHAM CITY," is the statement:

"...If you were to ask Robin which of his adversaries offered the most ticklish challenge, his answer might surprise you. For it wouldn't be any of the big-time crooks--But instead, a mere boy, his own size and age!..." And Robin is shown bearing down on a youth crouched before a sign reading, "WANTED---Floyd Wood, Age 15---."

Nowhere in Star-Spangled is a clue supplied to Batman's age. However, there is a slight, tantalizing bit of information concerning his birthday. It is to be found in the 1949, April edition, numbered 91 and the story bears the title A BIRTHDAY FOR BATMAN.

The first panel on page 2 of the Robin story depicts an invitation card on which is written: "You are cordially invited to attend the Birthday Party of Bruce Wayne to be held the 7th day of this month. Dinner will served at 7 o'clock."

But gosh, ding-it! Is the month really April? Comic books have a habit of hitting the stands months before their cover dates. Besides learning Batman's birthdate is the seventh of some month or other, the story's other claim for record in comicbook history is that it features the only appearance of VICK VALE (four panels) in Star Spangled.

Robin once risked the life of a ciminal. It took plade in Issue 112 dated January, 1951. In this writer's opinion this tale and the Dante Leonardo narrative are the best of the entire Star Spangled series.

In this eye-opener saluting 1951, called THE PLAINCLOTHES ROBIN, the Green Cowl gang is running rampart through Gotham. For once Batman is not the target---no, the Boy Wonder is---for Robin had trapped their leader "two years ago" and now the Cowlers have "orders to shoot on sight." Artwork is at its best in the story. Page 2 being particularly striking with Batman, cape streaming behind him, and silouetted by a full moon, standing in mysterious majesty looking down from a rooftop. One could imagine he was reading a Detective Comics of the late 30's rather than the usually washed-out versions of the early 50's.

As the story unfolds, Batman is captured by the Green Cowl mob, who chortle, "...Wait! We won't have to get Robin--We'll make him come to us--using BATMAN AS A HOSTAGE!"

Robin, indeed walks into the gang's hideout. A gun fires and a sneering caption reads ..."HA-HA! SO LONG ROBIN!" But the gang has congratulated itself too soon. For Robin had captured a Green Cowl member, dressed him in the familiar colors of red, yellow and green, before forcing him to march hands-tied and mouth-gagged into almost certain death. But the moralistic reader discovers to his relief the gunned criminal will live.

Robin rationalizes his actions by saying later in the Batcave: "I just couldn't stand by and do nothing, Batman, so I sneaked up on Runty, made him my prisoner and forced him to lead me to the hideout. You saw

the rest---They shot him, but he'll live to pay for his crimes!"

Batman was shot t wice during Robin tales. It happened first in Issue No. 86 and again in Issue 92. Things were tough for the elder crime-fighter during the course of Robin's Star Spangled days. Issue 96 begins by showing Batman bed-ridden with a bullet wound and Robin left to fend for himself in the September, 1949 epic THE BOY WHO COULD INVENT MIRACLES.

What about the Batmobile? It is drawn into the strip for the first time in No. 87, Dec., 1948. The new model developed in Detective Comics 156, Feb., 1950, roars into action on the Star Spangled turf for the first time in the May, 1950, Issue numbered 104. Issue 126 featured a new gimmick for the super-charged vehicle. A flip of "hidden controls" on the dashboard and the Batmobile even while in full motion was transformed into an "oil truck" so it would not be conspicuous while trailing a criminal. There was even a Robin-Mobile appearing only in Issue 113. It was a minature Batmobile in appearance. It lacked the graceful trunk bat-ribbed tail fin and the awesome bat-face grill fronting. Yet it was a sharp-appearing, nifty, little car with a large, black-circled "R" at its helm to proclaim the vehicle belonged to the Boy Wonder.

Two youthful costumed heroes fought alongside Robin in the course of events. Wireboy appeared in Issue 98; Roberta The Girl Wonder in Issue 103. Either were worthy of more than one appearance but neither ever appeared agin in the series. Which was too bad but is more evidence that National either completely disregards a character once used or completely goes overboard in the opposite direction as today's firm has done with the Superman family.

Issue 114 is a collector's item. It retells Robin's origin and pits the Boy Wonder against crime onee more under the Circus Big Top, his first home before joining up with Batman.

In reviewing the entire Star Spangled deeds of Robin for the most part the reader felt he might be reading Detective, Batman or World's Finest. There was just too much Batman in the tales to ever relay the feeling the Boy Wonder was acting solely on his own.

It was sad Robin didn't work out as a solo. For then, perhaps, Batman would have been allowed at times to star alone in at least Detective or Batman Comics. But this never happened and is not likely to now today. Even with his appearances in Brave and Bold, Robin is teamed up with someone else---Kid Flash, Aqualad, Wonder Girl--who next?

Yet as crumbling issues of Star Spangled are dug out of musty attics and eagerly re-read, we have admiration for a Boy Wonder, who tried to be on his own but failed.

Even so, we admire him for making the attempt to leave the nest or in this case perhaps it is best called the bat-roost.

Yes, Robin, it was a Star Spangled but precarious perch, indeed.

---Tom Fagan
Rutland, Vermont
Spring, 1965

EDITORS NOTE: Robin's solo days are far from over. BATMAN #172(June 1965) features "Robin's Unassisted Triple Play!"--in which the Boy Wonder uses physics to overpower the Flower Gang. Batmania is pleased that our presentation of Robin's original solo days coincides with his long awaited return to solo-action.

NOTICE---When ordering Batmania we would like to advise you to send dimes (not quarters, nickles or pennies, as they're heavier) and above all, please tape them securely to yourstationary. By following these simple suggestions you will make the old Capt. much happier.

The Batmanian ROLL CALL--

Continuing the listing of each and every active BATMANIAN and their address, plus their official life-time BM number.

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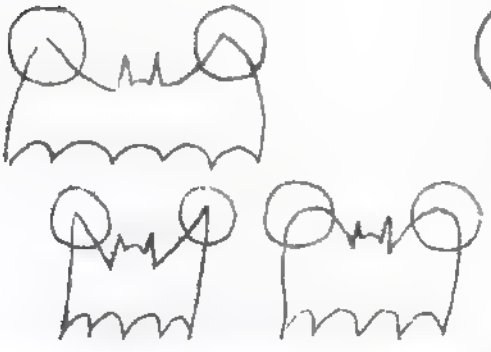
MORE NEXT ISSUE

All Comic Oddities and Bat-Facts should be sent to Biljo White, P.O.Box 115, Columbia, Mo. Full credit to the source of all contributions.

---Thank you.

COMIC ODDITIES AND BAT-FACTS



Down through the years the Bat-symbol has undergone many changes.

Above; The head went from long sharp ears to even rounded ears at one time.

Above: The vertex changed from sloping, to straight and rounded versions. Below: We have a variation of 'length of points' and 'amount of points'.

Three of the main types were:

-Sam Viviano

ROY CRANE, FOR SHAME! While reading one of my favorite daily strips, BUZ SAWYER(featuring Roscoe Sweeney) by Roy Crane, a panel from the Sunday, Feb. 21 strip showed Roscoe at a "pop" art show where he intends to buy a painting. When shown a "blown-up" panel from a comic book, he laughs loudly and snorts--"You must be kidding! I can buy a whole comic book for ten cents."

ANDRE--WHERE ARE YOU? For those of you who own a copy of DETECTIVE Comics #64(June, 1942) you no doubt read the 1st Boy Commandos story. You'll notice in the splash panel(P1) that Andre, the french BC of a hundred adventures was originally called...PIERRE CHAVARD!

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST for March 13, 1965 featured a cartoon on page 50 that included Batman among many other well-known super-heroes. Many fans brought this to my attention. Thanks to you all.

THE NATIONAL OBSERVER(Feb. 22, 1965) carries an article entitled: "Batman Goes to College, But the Experiment Failed." It concerns a student motion-picture selection committee at Tulane University that decided to run an old Batman serial before the main feature in an effort to give the audience a chance to let off steam. As this news of Batman's coming students immediately split into pro-Batman and anti-Batman parties. Needless to say, the committee discontinued the serial after only two episodes--due not to "too much expended steam", but to excessive profanity. ---Bob George

BILJO'S BIG GOOF! As of this writing only one fan has apparently noticed that Robin on the cover of Batmania #4 is maskless! Possibly you noticed this----Batmanian #148 did...he's Roger Reigstad.

BATMAN--A RETURN TO THE MOVIES? Jack Promo spotted a notice of a Bat Man movie in LIFE (Mar. 19). Among the pic tures in the fashion "section" there is a Bat Man movie mentioned, but apparently it's not about our guy. Quote about the movie: "..in which a man dressed like Dracula drops in on all sorts of unrelated situations."

AN INTERESTING COINCIDENT...It's interesting to note that the first issue cover of Batman #1 showed the Dynamic Duo swinging on ropes above the city. This same sort of scene appeared on the cover of the first "new look" Batman issue. ---Dick Memorich

IN THE MARCH 24th issue of The New York Times Magazine, an article appeared entitled: "It's Not Good Taste or Bad Taste--It's Camp." For you completist collectors, you might want to try and get a copy since it mentions Batman and reprints "The Jungle Batman" cover. Sent in by Tom Hronik and Bill Elliot. All such items spotted by you eagle-eye Batmanians should be sent in---and if possible, supply me with an extra copy. Remember, the old Capt. collects 'anything' about Batman.

VOICE OF COMICDOM #4(April 1965) features a most interesting guest editorial by Otto Binder that should be read by all who consider writing or drawing for the comics in the future. This well known pro points out many faults of artist-biased fans who contribute to, or publish fanzines. (*Batmania included) If you don't know who Bill Finger is then I suggest you get a copy of VOC--25¢--60 Gladys St.,San Francisco.

A BATMAN GREETING CARD?--Yes! Some years ago HI BROWS cards issued a card with this inscription on the front: "YOU are one of my favorite people! In fact there's only three (3) people i like beter'n you." Inside it says: "Batman, Wonder Woman, and MYSELF!!" --Larry Raybourne

HANGMAN, or what have you? Hangman's first issue was called Special Comics. #2 thru #8 was titled Hangman and beginning with #9 was changed to Black Hood Comics. Hangman, the character who appeared in a comic with three title changes...know of anyone who can beat that record?
--Raymond Miller

I'M NO COIN COLLECTOR, but...In the Batman Annual #1, first story, page 7, panel 6, the trophy from the "Penny Plunder Case"...It is a Lincoln head penny with a date of "1901". I've been informed by Robert Lewis that Lincoln head pennies weren't minted until 1909.

THE KIND OF PUBLICITY BATMAN DOESN'T NEED -- In the movie, "The Young Savages", three boys who belong to a gang in Harlem, called the Thunderbirds, were being tried for the stabbing and murder of a blind boy. Toward the end, the D.A. was asking one of them some questions,...

"What do the other kids call you?" Answer, "Batman"
"Why do they call you Batman?" "Because I read Batman Comics"
"Why do you like Batman?" "Because he's so strong and is always fighting. I like to fight, like him."

---Mike Bernard

David Johnson of New Orleans noticed this clipping in his paper, dated 2/19/65...'BATMAN CP' SLATED IN N.O..."The "Batman CP" will convene in mid-March at the New Orleans Press Club. John Campora, national president of the 11th Armored Division Association, said its New Orleans area chapter will hold a luncheon meeting at the club, at a date to be announced. Campora explained at a Wednesday night meeting at the Fontainebleau that "Batman," a comic book character, was the division's code name during World War II. "CP" normally means command post but in this instance will refer to "chow party."

From Paul Leiffer -- "Jim Warren's CREEPY would serve to clinch what I've read about Al Williamson's ghost work on daily strips--in Issue #1, for example, "The Success Story", the comic strip shown is titled "Dan Slagg" (A.W. has pencilled "Dan Flagg"), whilethe drawings in "H2O World" seem straight from "Rip Kirby". (Note that the skin diver, CREEPY #1, p.10, is Rip Kirby in the strip of 3/26/64, while the cigar smoker, CREEPY #1, p.38, shows up in the "Kirby" strip of 4/20/64. John Prentice, apparently, does little more than sign the work--Baldo Smudge??)

Jeremy A. Barry spotted this clipping...CRACKING DOWN..."Diyarbakir, Turkey -- Turkish gendarmes have arrested a gang of gun-runners at Batman, in southeast Turkey, alleged to have smuggled arms across the Turkish border to Kurdish rebels in Iraq." Now, I ask you, aren't our Batmanians top-notch "Batman" spotters?

FOR ABOUT A YEAR NOW...there has been a kiddies show on TV called COURAGEOUS CAT and MINJTE MOUSE. On the credits there is a line that goes like this, 'Created by Bob Kane.' And if any cartoon ever hit near Batman then this is it. The CAT has a gun that will get him out of any trap(utility belt). The MOUSE is CC's right hand man(Robin). They have a CAT-Mobile, and a CAT-Cave. There number one foe is the FROG. They even have a police chief for a friend. Almost all their cartoon titles are called a case, example; The Case of the Vanishing Vase.--Steve Sabo

THE REALIST for March 1965 is another one of those mags(or rags) that will buy anything to fill their pages with. It'd make any true Batman fan sick at his stomach to read "Batman and Robin Were Lovers..." It was hacked out by one John R. Cochran(who must be a cousin to Dr. Frederick Wertham, 'cause this article is a insinuating continuation of Wertham's attacks in his book, SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT.

THE VILLAGE VOICE(A Newspaper of Greenwich Village) for April 1, 1965 features an article entitled, "Super-Anti-Hero In Forest Hills" Mainly, it's about Spiderman, but Batman and Superman are also mentioned. I usually try to list all such material for you should you want to try and obtain a copy.

NOW is the time to order Batmania #6. Always reserve your copy.

Readers of early Action Comics will instantly recognize the dashing figure of the soldier-of-fortune, CLIP CARSON. This is another of Bob Kanes old strips.

A QUESTION by LeRoy S. Blair... "I would like to hear some comments from other fans on World's Finest #144 where Batman's identity was revealed to Jimmy Olsen. I got the feeling that Jimmy wasn't to be trusted with Superman's identity but Batman wasn't important so it was all right for Jimmy to know who he was. I don't know if Mort Weisinger did this on his own or if Julius Schwarz agreed to it, but I think that anything as important as revealing Batman's secret identity to some one should be done in Batman or Detective Comics." Any comments?

If you should happen to have a copy of the record album, An Evening with Mike Nichols and Elaine May, you may have noticed their "skit" or "routine" runs "from Plato to Batman and Robin." Roy Thomas spotted this printed on his album jacket, altho there is no mention of the duo inside.

IN THE FLY #1, the Fly's buzz gun shot paralyzing stingers. By issue #3, the buzz gun shot radiation. The ammunition was switched back to splinter-bullets again in #4. In issue #5, a permanent switch was made wherein the buzz gun shot sonic vibrations. Also in #5, the Fly gained the powers of the insect world, was shown as an attorney-at-law (whereas before he was just a young boy), and met a vastly changed Spider. The Spider, The Fly's arch-enemy, before shown as a short man with skinny arms and legs, was drawn as a tall man having no resemblance to the former Spider. This inconsistency in art continued in later issues of the Fly. ---John Cardoza

"I've been rumaging through the University of Maryland library in my spare time, looking for comic book articles. One that I found was in the May 20, 1949 issue of The Commonweal. It was an anti-comics article (see E. Brill's index) with the following reference to Batman: "Another publisher put out Superman, which opened the gates for a torrent of weird comic book characters--The Human Torch, Blonde Phantom and Batman, to mention a few." ---Rick Weingroff

WHEN DID SUPERMAN HAVE MORE POWER THAN EVER BEFORE? Answer--When he borrowed Green Lantern's power ring in Superman #172, "The Tyrant Superman" ---Steve Maurer

BATMAN #171, May 1965 "Remarkable Ruse of the Riddler!" contained a glaring error...page 4, panels 1,2,3 show BM and Robin battling The Riddler in scenes from Detective Comics #140(1948)...yet, there is that "new look" yellow circle around the bat symbol. Despite this flaw I feel this particular issue will rate high in the voting for Best Story of the year in the 1965 Batmania Ballot voting. This is the best looking Bob Kane work I've seen of his "new look" art. Error spotted by Bruce Kimble. Comment on the story and art by Biljo.

QUOTE FROM MAGNUS #10--"In other books, such as Batman, Superman, Aquaman, and others border on sheer fantasy. They stretch the imagination

too much to be easily accepted." This appeared in the letter column, a letter written by Ben F. Lee. ---Roger Reigsta

NEWSWEEK, April 14, 1947 (p.65). In discussing the Superman suit of Siegel and Shuster: "Things might have been better," Siegel and Shuster argued in reference to the amount of money they made, "had not Donenfeld and the syndicate introduced such income-diverting imitations of Superman as Batman and Robin, Superboy, Lois Lane, Girl Reporter, The Flash, and Aquaman." ---Rick Weingroff

SUPERMAN ONCE THOUGHT HE WAS A FREAK EARTHMAN! Yes, in issue #61 of Superman Comics, the Man of Steel discovered the fact that he was from Krypton and had his first run-in with Kryptonite. Also in this issue, Kryptonite was depicted as red, instead of the familiar green.
---John Cardoza

Newspapers all over the country are printing articles on comics and collectors...but I was surprised to receive a clipping from the Rochester, N.Y. Democrat and Chronicle, March 21, 1965. It was an article about Jeffrey Gelb and his collection, but above it was a drawing of mine of the Marvel Family that appeared in Alter Ego #7. Similar articles have appeared in papers from Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Chicago, New York City, St. Louis and many more. Some concern Bill Placzek, who with 27,000 comics must be the No. 1 collector. A reference to me (Biljo) led to an interview with The St. Louis Post Dis-Patch and a taped broadcast with a San Francisco radio station. (Anyone on the west coast happen to hear it?). Also had a lengthy long-distance talk with a repersentative of CBS-News. They still plan to tape a human interest segment for their evening news-show, but cost of sending a crew to dear ol' Columbia appears too high. They tell me the tape will not be centered on good friend, Jerry Bails. Too bad. Chances are they'll concentrate on some N. Y. area fan.

ANOTHER BATMAN AND ROBIN APPEARANCE...was spotted by Glen Johnson when he was browsing throu some old comics. In World's Finest #8, the Star Spangled Kid strip, Batman and his side-kick appeared.

ESCAPADE (August 1963, Vol. 8, No.5) page 2...There is a quiz of several old comic book characters and their identifying objects. Batman is one of the symbols. ---Bob George

Why do you wear that goofy feathered cap when the bat-hood you wore in BM#1 was great looking?
--Ian Forrest

Ian, "Capt. Biljo" is sort of a trade mark with me and only once did he appear in the bat-hood, that being BM#1. Flying was (and still is) one of my great boyhood thrills and in those long-gone days every kid wore cap and goggles.(at least on my block.) --Biljo

"THE GREATEST SCOOP OF ALL TIME" was the title of the story in Superman #20, in which one of Lois Lane's gags to prove Clark was Sup backfired and soon the whole world thought the same. On Page 7, the first panel in the bottom row, we find BM and Robin in their civilian identities saying, "To think he even had me fooled!"(Bruce) "And it's no cinch to fool the Batman."-(Dick).Perhaps this is the first time

a guest hero appeared with Superman. (Can anyone find anything earlier?) ---Steven Sabo

BATMAN APPEARED IN SUPERMAN COMICS #76...supposedly meeting the Man of Steel for the first time. On the cover there are five wing tips on Batman's Bat-emblem. In the story, however, the number of tips vary from five to eight. (See p.1 of Comic Oddities) --John Cardoza

I DON'T HAVE...a copy of the book, THE CIRCLE OF GUILT by Fredric Wertham, but I have been informed by Cary Liniger that the names of both Batman and Superman are listed along with a number of other old-time comics. Anyone have a copy of this book for sale, or trade? While checking over my hard-bound copy of SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT I found Batman mentioned on 14 different pages, 33,130,97,132,189,190,191,192, 193,233,234,236,237,376. Other comic characters attacked in this book are--Nyoka, Capt. Marvel, Superman, Superboy, Wonder Woman, Sheena, JO-JO, Jungle Jim, Tarzan, Archie, Blue Beetle, Black Cat, Human Torch, Flash, Green Lantern, Tom Mix and Hopalong Cassidy.

MORE ON THE "1st" GUEST APPEARANCE OF BM AND ROBIN IN SUPERMAN #20... Dick Memorich also noticed Bruce and Dick's appearance in this issue, but also this choice bit of "inside humor"..."The story is titled "Supermans Secret Revealed", and on the title page of the story, a simulated newspaper account is used as a background for the artwork. It is type set, and the print of course is very small. Nine out of ten readers would never bother to read this background. The newspaper report on the exposure of Superman as Clark Kent is handled very factual and straight, as any reporters story would be. However, at the end of the article, we have "reactions from several of Americas civic and business leaders" commenting on the discovery that Clark Kent is really Superman: Wayne Boring--It's like discovering there is no Santa Claus.
F. Whitney Ellsworth--I knew it all the time.
Hal Liebowitz: I knew Ellsworth knew it.
--- Donnenfeld--I knew Ellsworth and Liebowitz knew it.
--- Zilch--Who is Superman? Never heard of him.

Dear Biljo,
NEWSWEEK, Feb. 15, 1965, PAGE 89... They devoted a good fat paragraph to BATMANIA. I was disappointed to see they failed to mention you by name,
Jim Jones

BRAVE AND BOLD #59...GL teams up with Batman...Page 2, panel 1, Bruce Wayne is thinking about Alfred on a vacation and he's bored, which means Alfred would be gone a long time. And isn't Alfred dead? Even if this story was before (long time before) he died, then Batman should not have the yellow background behind the bat-emblem on his chest. Need I say more? --R. Earl Pompeo
(Please don't...!cause we're running out of space...)

The BATRADER

This is a restricted ad section for fans desiring to buy-sell-trade Batman comics and related items. Comics to be listed for sale must not exceed the rate of 20¢ per year. Example: a 10 year old comic(1955) times 20¢ = $2.00. If you feel your comic is worth more, then omit a price and enter the word; bid. If a fan is interested, he can deal with you privately. The BATRADER's purpose is to provide the fan a place to help locate that hard-to-find item, not for the benefit of the comic profiteer. Only comics featuring Batman can be advertised. Rate: 25 words for 10¢, including a minimum of 6 words for your name and address. 150 words, 50¢.

FOR SALE: Batman #131,138(n.c.),144,150,156,160-25¢ea. J.L.A. #24,26 - 25¢ea. World's Finest #119,120-35¢ea. All issues are fair to good cond., have covers. WANTED: Batman before 100, World's Finest before 100, Detective before 250. Send orders or price lists to --
ROBERT LEWIS, 301 DORSET DRIVE, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

WANTED: Batman Annuals 1-6, Secret Origins 1, Superman 156, Brave and Bold 28, JLA 1,2,4-7,9,11,14-16,18,19,22,24,27, Batman 107,144,162,163, Detective 307,310,312,316, World's Finest 125,127,130,132,140. Will pay reasonable prices. MIKE BERNARD, 4079 COTTONWOOD, MEMPHIS, TENN.38118

WANTED: JLA 22, Detective 326. Will pay 25¢ each. World's Finest 123 - will pay 35¢. Send postcards.
MERLIN HAAS, R.R.#2, EL PASO, ILLINOIS

FOR SALE: Batman 168(The Fight that Jolted Gotham City)with complete pages and cover. Price 25¢. WANTED: Batman Annual 6(Batman and Robin's Most thrilling Mystery Cases). Must have complete pages and covers. Will pay 25¢. DOUGLAS RUDY, 549 WASHINGTON AVE., BELLEVILLE, N.J.07109

FOR SALE: Batman Annuals 4,5(both VG) 45¢ea. Detective 323,324(both mint) -20¢ea. Batman 161(M)-20¢. World's Finest 139(M)-25¢. JLA 14,15,16,17, 18,29(all coverless)-25¢ each.
BILL RAY, 3300 GARBETT AVE., McKEESPORT, PA. 15132

WANTED: Any fanzine published in fandom, including ALTER EGOS, etc. Also wanted, any comics up to 1960 on Batman. This includes guest appearances of Batman in any comics.
JIM RUMMELL, Apt. 543, COOPERSDALE HOM., JOHNSTOWN, PA.

WANTED: Will pay $1.00 for any Batman before #90. Send bids for any World's Finest 1954-1965.
WES WHITLER, 180 FOREST DRIVE, JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA 47130

FOR BEST RESULTS -- Send stamped, self-addressed envelope with inquiries.

YMIR occasionally features something about Batman, and just about anything else under the sun, but for you lucky first 100 Batmanians who order a copy of the latest issue of YMIR in an envelope a free full page Batman illustration in photo-offset on 24 lb. paper will be enclosed. 35¢ per copy in an envelope.

Y M I R

JOHNNY CHAMBERS 3300 CHERRY AVE. SAN JOSE, CALIF.

*Please specify that you are a Batmanian.

WANTED: Detective Comics #27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36-316 Batmania #1, Batman Annuals 1,2,3, Secret Origins 1, Batman Comics 1-159. I especially want Detective 156, some daily and all Sunday comic strips. Also wanted -- All Batman original artwork.

Contact: MIKE CAVENDER, 563 COLORADO AVE. AURORA, ILLINOIS 60506

W A N T E D ---

Giant Batman Annuals #1, 2, 3, 5 for 60¢ each. All issues must have full covers, no marks, scratches, or pages torn out.

Write: WADE FULMER
1139 SUNNYSIDE DRIVE
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

WANTED: Batman #1 thru 73, 94, 100, 101. Detective #27 thru 229
World's Finest #1 thru 70, 72, 81 All Star #7 and 36
Star Spangled #65 thru 130 (featuring Robin in solo action)
Superman #76 (Batman meets Superman), World's Fair-1940 Edition

I am interested in buying the above and others by lots of 50 or more. I will pay 50¢ to $1.00 per comic for sight-unseen lots, and higher prices for guaranteed very good to mint condition comics. Send me your description list and prices asked. I will re-emburse postage for any seller who sends the order boxed via third class registered mail.

For any single copies of the above I have fortrade---

TRADE: Batman #[illegible],[illegible],113,126,128,133,134,[illegible],[illegible],140 to the present.
Detective #155,162,175,184,186,211,214,219,244,283,285,286,287, 289 to the present.
World's Finest #76,84,112 to the present.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: M. HANERFELD
42-42 COLDEN STREET
FLUSHING, NEW YORK 11355

FOR SALE: REPRODUCTIONS OF THE FIRST SIX BATMAN AND ROBIN COMIC STRIPS FROM THE NEWSPAPERS WHICH APPEARED IN 1943 FOR ONLY 75¢. They contain info on Batman, Alfred, Batsignal, Batplane, and Batmobile. Also a diagram of of the Bat-cave. All orders must be in by three months after this issue of BATMANIA is received by me.

Contact: WILLIAM LEE 225 ROGERS AVE. BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11225

FOR BID: J.L.A. #1,3,4,6,7,8(no cover),11,13,14,17. World's Finest 109, 113,118,120,123,125,126,128,129. Detective #294,296.

WANTED: Batman Annual #2, Secret Origins 1

Contact; JACK HONEYCUTT, 1643 SANTA CRUZ, SAN PEDRO, CALIF.

FOR SALE: Batman #150,142,132. Detective #301,300 -- 25¢ each.
WANTED: Batman #1,2,3,5. Detective #27,28,29,38. J.L.A.#1,3,4,5.
Brave and Bold #28,29,30. WILL TRADE: Batman #66,111 & Detective #267
Hard cover Superman book-over 200 pages-color illos. Whiz #61
ALEX PATRICK BOX 398, OSWEGO ROAD LIVERPOOL, N.Y.

WANTED: Batmania #1. Must be in good condition with all pages and no tears. I will pay a reasonable price.

PHILIP POWELL R.R. 1, BOX 49 WILMINGTON, OHIO

FOR BID OR TRADE: Batman #153,154,158,159,161,162,164 Detective #316, 318,325,326,331,332,335 World's Finest #129,134,136,137,138,139,140, 144,147 Batman-Silver Anniversary Annual (between fair & poor cond.)
WRITE: ALAN DANIELS c/o Senior, 33 CONVENT AVE.(Apt.20), NEW YORK,N.Y.

THE COMIC READER

Official Newsletter of the Academy Of Comic Book Fans And Collectors is published monthly. Price 25¢. 4 issues $1. Over thirty-five issues now in print. Each issue features pre-release tip-offs on new comics from all the publishing houses---ON THE DRAWING BOARD. No delay in mailing as all copies are sent FIRST CLASS. You'll find all the top names of fandom within the interesting pages of THE COMIC READER.

Order from -- GLEN JOHNSON, BOX 125, CROWNPOINT, NEW MEXICO

WANTED: I will pay $3.00 for SCREEN THRILLS ILLUSTRATED #2. It must have no tears, marks, or pages missing. I will pay $1.50 for BATMANIA #1 and $1.50 for BATMANIA #2. Both must have no tears, marks, or pages missing.
Contact: STEVE MAURER
79-31 63th ROAD, MIDDLE VILLAGE,
NEW YORK, N. Y. 11379

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Batman #5(V)(Trade), World's Finest #4(V)(Trade), #8(V)(Trade), #26(V)-$3.00, #30(G)-$3.00, #37(G)-$2.00, #39(V)-$2.00, #40(G)-$2.00. Detective #27(Very good, but has taped cover)(For trade only for Detective #28 in mint condition and some cash, or best offer, or for any of the following in mint or close to mint condition; Marvel Mystery #1 or #9, Flash Gordon (Four Color)#10, Prince Valiant-Feature Book #26, Tarzan (S.S.)#20.
WANTED: In Mint condition only--Detective #28, 31, World's Finest #17, 41, 46, 48, 49, 51, 52, 56, 61, 62, 63, 65, 68. All Batman Sunday and daily strips needed.
RICK DURELL(Apt. G), 424 W. IMPERIAL AVE., EL SEGUNDO, CALIF.90245

WANTED: Detective #328 (two copies), The Batman Annualthat features, "How To Be The Batman"--25¢-$2.00. Batmania #1--20¢-50¢. All must be Very Good to Mint copies.
RANDY HOTCHKISS, 5000 INDIAN CREEK ROAD, TOPEKA, KAN. 66617

WANTED TO TRADE: 1960 through 1964 Batman, Detective, World's Finest, J.L.A. and Batman Annuals in trade. I have 1961 through 1965 issues for trade. Please state which issues you have and what ones of mine you want in trade. I will trade only if I am interested in your offers. Thank you, BM #265.
PHILIP POWELL, R.R. 1, Box 49, WILMINGTON, OHIO 45177

WANTED: Detective #327(Mystery of the Menacing Mask)-30¢, #328(Gotham Gang Line-Up)-30¢, #330(The Fallen Idol of Gotham City)-20¢. Batman: #165(The Man Who Quit the Human Race)-25¢. Magazines MUST be in good condition. No pages or covers MISSING.
BATMANIA: #1-25¢, #2-45¢. Same as above applies here. Please send to-
HERBERT ANDERS, 14273 LINCOLN AVE., DOLTON, ILL. 60419

WANTED: BATMAN COMICS #1-149, 152, 158-164 Inclusive
DETECTIVE COMICS: #27-258,260-268,270-293,295-311,313,314,316,318-328, 333,334 - Inclusive. BATMAN ANNUALS #1,2,6.
HANK RAMSEY, 420 S. 219th, SEATTLE, WASH. 98188

ATTENTION!
If you are interested in publishing a fanzine, or ad sheets, or circulars, but don't have the means to print, or if you are an editor whose machine has been giving unsatisfactory results, then you will be interested in this. I am opening a fan mimeographing service, avilable to anyone interested. The rates are as follows--one half cent per printed page (there are two pages to one sheet of paper, remember), plus cost of material and whatever it costs to mail the printed pages back to you. Paper costs run $1.85 for every five hundred sheets, and ink can generally be figured at 75¢ for 2400 printed pages. Ink estimates may varry with circulation and the type of material. Each person naturally provides his own pre-typed, clearly numbered stencils, four hole variety, and payment for the job, as near as you can figure the costs, must be inclosed when you send me the stencils and any special instructions you may have. I believe you will find these prices considerably lower than those being asked by any commercial printer, and I guarantee speedy, efficient service. If interested, write today to---
ROBERT JENNINGS, 3819 CHAMBERS DRIVE, NASHVILLE 11, TENN. 37211

FOR SALE: Batman #73nc-60¢, #82g-f -60¢, #88nc-35¢, #90nc-35¢ or I will trade all four for one Star Spangled Comics...or for 1 Star Spangled and 1 All Star(with Batman). You may have all 4 BM's plus 2 Big Little Books from the thirties.
DAVID REDZINSKI, 250 ORCHARD, PEWAUKEE, WISC.

RARE BATMAN PAGES FOR SALE OR TRADE: I have copies of pages from Batman #1 (Spring 1940). They are page 3, 4, 5, 6. These pages might bring upt $2.50, but for a limited time only I will sell them for the low, low price of 75¢---or I will trade my pages for any Batman Comics preceeding issue #160 or any Detective Comics preceeding issue #317 or Batman Annuals 2 or 3. But herry, supply is limited. Trades always welcome! Send orders to---
MIKE CAVENDER, 563 COLORADO AVE., AURORA, ILL. 60506

I need long runs of daily and Sunday Beetle Bailey strips. --Bill.

Thanks to a very sturdy envelope my copy of BATMANIA arrived in perfect condition. However, there was one overall thought that disturbed me at times. It's this idea that nothing is impossible for Batman and Robin. It seems your basic concern in the costume-hero field is Batman-this,BM-that. This kind of thinking can hold back the revival of interest that seems to be going on for costumed characters. Fandom shouldn't think of itself as an elite group of comic readers whose purpose it is to pass judgement on each comic character; either condemning or praising a hero and rejecting the opinion of those comic readers whose names don't automatically make them experts. It is true that in fandom fanzine editors hold more power than any letter writers --unless of course the writer has a big name in fandom. Most of the old and venerable comic fans have opinions formed not completely on the facts as they are today, but with facts from the (and I shudder at the thought of the term) "Golden Age" of comics. How can I accept the word of one of these old-timers that so-and-so wasa terrific artist, when the same fan says Jack Kirby is turning out marvelous work and, probably couldn't even tell you what strip Curtis Swan is working? I feel strongly on the issue of this over-praising of artists just because they once happened to work on a famous strip.

On another subject---check the World's Finest story "The 1,001 Tricks of Brainiac and Clayface," and you'll find that, even after the "new look" was introduced in Batman, Curtis Swan depicted the next-to-last version of the Batmobile with the tail-fin merging with the dome top. Although not as manuerable as today's Batmobile, the old model was possibly the last link with the mysterious Batman.

--Norman Penovich

Barry M. Brooks sent me a clipping from The Boston Globe, April 16, 1965, titled "Cool It, Baby--Batman's Back". Illustrated with a fine cartoon by Gerry Cirignano the three column article concerns the "new life" Batman is enjoying as his old serials are being replayed at Harvard sq.'s highbrow Brattle Square Theater. "Old Batman is really camp around the square this Spring, and his creaky resurrected 1940 serials are drawing the intelligentsia like wild."

Chances are you've never heard of "camp"...but one definition is ...Camp not only involves finding fun and delight in things that others find banal, boring, worthless or hopelessly out-of-date, but also involves a certain amount of parody (especially unconscious parody) and

what is colloquially known around New York as "the put on." Anarchic, anti-Establishment and often infuriatingly perverse, Camp is frivolous about serious things and serious about frivolous things, celebrating, as some put it, "the contrast between silly or extravagant content and rich form."

In the same vein, Jon D. Swartz notified me that 52" by 32" full color posters currently are being sold for $2.98 each by Por Art Portraits (4th Floor, 216 East 45th St., New York, N.Y.10017). The series being offered at the present only has posters of The Phantom, Mandrake, Flash Gordon, and Prince Valiant. Jon suggested that if enough letters from Batmanians around the country might persuade them to offer one of Batman in the future. However, this quote from the article I received from Barry Brooks, "Batman's publishers look down their crayons at making their boy pop and won't create posters."

Now, if I may, I want to thank all of you who participated in the voting of the Alley Awards for 1964 for placing Batmania #1 and Batmania #2 first and second as the best Ditto/Mimeo covers in the Fan Division. It also makes the old Capt. mighty proud to have his Alter Ego #7 cover(The Marvel Family) selected as the Best Cover (Other Means) also in the fan division. ---Biljo White

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Announcing.....THE
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As announced in the March issue of The Comic Reader the following results of the 1964 Alley Awards Poll---BEST COMIC BOOK COVER--(1) Detective #329. BEST PENCIL ARTIST--(1) Carmine Infantino. BEST HERO--(3) Batman. BEST VILLAIN--(3) Joker. Selections made by The Academy of Comic Book Fans and Collectors.

Jack Promo and Kenny Heineman are both looking into all possibilities of obtaining 8MM films of the old Batman serials. Jack first wrote Blackhawk Films(Eastin-Phelan Corp.)--who, in turn, suggested he write Columbia Pictures Corp. who originally produced the serials. As announced in The Comic Reader, Kenny received word from a company (unnamed) that produces 8MM films, and there is a strong chance they will produce in 8MM the film. These serials, Batman and Batman and Robin, would make an excellent addition to any Batmanian's collection so if interested write Eli Arenburg, Manager, and request that these serials be released in 8MM sound and in silent versions. Address--Columbia Pictures 8MM Division, 711 Fifth Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

CRACKED #9 (May 1959)---In it's "Vicejoy" ad Batman and Robin are shown on top of a building(in the background) staring at the Bat-Signal. FRANTIC Vol.2 #1 (Feb. 1959)---On page 11, in its "expose" of Superman, shows the Bat-Signal in the background of a few panels, and has a silhouette of Batman in the background of still another panel. Batman

appears to be robbing a bank in the drawing. --Dave Bibby
(Can anyone supply the old Capt. with copies of these?)

Dave also mentioned, "During the summer of 1964, on a quiz show called GET THE MESSAGE, the word the contestants were going for was "joker." After someone finally guessed the word, the host, Frank Buxton, said: 'I would've given BATMAN as a clue. Don't you remember? Batman was always fighting the Joker.' Mr. Buxton seemed somewhat perturbed that no one else remembered Batman. (I was pretty perturbed myself."

BATMAN IN DEPTH

Many Batmanians may not know that National published a 25¢ 3-D Batman comic, and a 25¢ 3-D Superman comic, in 1953. Both books were large-sized (11" X 8½") with 32 pages plus covers. They carried no advertizing and the inside front and back covers were blank.

Here it might be wise to explain how the three dimensional effect was created. The artist's black and white ink drawing is used but, it is printed twice; once in a green-blue ink and once in an orange ink. The orange ink is printed to the right of, and overlaping the green-blue ink. In the figures to be shown furthermost in the background, the two ink images are 1/8" apart. In the figures coming forward to the foreground, the images are printed closer together corresponding to the depth portrayed. The borders, and figures level to the border, are printed one ink over the other. Occasionally, if a figure is shown partially outside the panel, the green-blue ink is printed to the right of the orange ink. The picture is viewed through glasses in which the left eye is a red orange and right eye is a dark green-blue. The images appear in three dimensional black and white.

The 3-D Batman book contained three reprints; two Batman stories seperated by an eight page Tommy To morrow story. The first Batman story is "The Fowls of Fate" in which the Masked Manhunter tackles his old foe---The Penquin. The Tommy Tomorrow story is entitled "The Interplantary Aquarium." In the last story Batman battles "The Robot Robbers."

The 3-D comics were an interesting experiment, but, due to pressure from optometrists, the expense involved, and that 25¢ price, they just never quite caught on solidly enough to warrent continuation.

---Mark Hanerfeld

I was twelve years old when I met Bob Kane. We were both vacationing in Long Beach, Long Island, N. Y. Across the way from where I stayed was a childrens shelter (Pride of Judea ChildrensHome). I had many friends there and visited with them quite frequently.

Bob Kane would also come over and entertain. He would draw pictures of the Dynamic Duo and their foes. I remember when I was introduced to Bob because I instantly knew who he was when I heard his name. Being an avid Batman fan at the time (who wasn't?) you can imagine how I felt when I met him face-to-face.

A few times I saw Bob heading for the beach and I always managed to meet him "accidently." I don't have to tell you what our main topic of conversation was.

That summer was the last time I saw him, but he left me with a very warm feeling and a most definite partiality towards Batman.

---David Weiss

It seems to me that though fandom has no influence on comic publishers, they owe as a debt of gratitude; we are almost singlehandedly putting comics back on the minds of the press: Bookweek, Ava Maria, dozens of newspapers, Newsweek, Ladies Home Journal, Esquire, etc. have comic articles. Fandom is stirring up interest; and the comics are getting more free publicity as a result than they have in years and years (good publicity, that is). ---Rick Weingroff

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(Continued from page 26)

There is one thing I think I should comment about -- Batmania is a fan magazine...and appears to be not much more. Of course, when and if you consider that this is its intention things work out fine, but truthfully there seems to be no real content in each issue. To date your best article was #2's Batman Before Robin. Then came The Big Parade -- might be of interest in a long letter, but without Tom's pleasent style of writing the whole thing would have fallen flat. As for the Evolution of the Batmobile, it was excellent, but not interesting enough to be the main feature of the issue. What I'm trying to say is that I want articles with some real meat in them. Like an article on the Penquin, long on information, as well as the other famous Batman villains, and some others.

---John (Sidney) Chambers

Late ad

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